

Identification of the male vine mealybug



These photographs will assist with the identification of male vine mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*) that are captured on pheromone sticky traps. They are small; the size of the male's body is not much larger than the period at the end of this sentence. It is suggested that at least 40x magnification be used to evaluate these traps; a 10x hand lens does not provide adequate magnification. Avoid placing traps in areas where they will be exposed to significant amounts of dust, as this will greatly hinder the trap evaluation process later on. Further verification of suspect vine mealybug males is important, as the traps may catch similar-looking males of related mealybug species from other plants.

Live vine mealybug male. The insect has a single pair of wings and two tail filaments.



Dead vine mealybug male.



Vine mealybug males as they appear on a sticky trap. The wings are often not visible when they contact the sticky trap material.



Close-up of a male on a sticky trap; note the filaments. If you find insects like this, submit the trap to your Ag Commissioner or UC Extension for further verification.



For more information contact:

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